

Chancellor waited for the preacher at the porch and walked home with him, laughing and congratulating him on his success. Meanwhile Stokes sat cowering hi the church, where he had just heard himself insulted and reviled, not daring for his life to show his head outside the door. The whole town was in high excitement and jubilation. Next day Eygge consented to publish the condemnation of Wycliffe's theses in the schools, but the opinions of the Blackfriars Council were treated as a joke by the University, which had learned from Wyeliffe himself to regard the curses of the Church with contempt. In the evening, Stokes wrote to Courtenay a letter which vividly paints his terror. * I do not know/ he says, * what will happen further. But one thing I must please make clear to you, venerable father; that in this matter I dare go no further for fear of death. I therefore implore you with tears to help me, lest I or my fellows suffer loss of life or limb.' The Archbishop was not long in answering this appeal. On the 9th he sent off a letter to the faithful friar, bidding him come up to London with all speed to explain the situation and consult for the future.¹ Before receiving this summons, Stokes was so rash as to show his hated face in the lecture-room ; but, warned by the glitter of arms under the cloaks of some of his audience, he gave way to the instinct of self-preservation and fled from the pulpit as precipitately as Dominie Sampson. On the 12th he went to London in obedience to the welcome invitation of the Primate. Leaving Oxford in the morning, he reached his destination at night. Considering the snail's pace at which journeys were then commonly taken, the ride does credit to the state of the highway.²

When Stokes arrived at the capital, he found affairs already improved. The Chancellor Eygge, though he had practically defied the Church authorities on the 5th, did not venture to shut himself up in Oxford and abide the consequences, but went up to explain his conduct and secure his position. He appeared before the Bishops on the 12th, while his opponent was on the road. The charge brought against the Chancellor and two proctors

¹ *tfasc. Z.*, 296-304.

² *Ibid.* 302-4.